

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 H-03 ABF-01 AGR-20 IGA-02

AID-20 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 /159 W

----- 015289

R 181432Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9709

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL GUAYAQPIL

ODEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MONTHLY NARCOTICS REPORT - ECUADOR DECEMBER 1973

1. SUMMARY: SEIZURES REPORTED IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER (NOVEMBER STATISTICS) AMOUNTED TO 9 POINT 9 KILOS OF COCAINE BASE. 1591 OPIUM PLANTS WERE DESTROYED AND WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR THE ARREST OF THE OWNERS. EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE NARCOTICS SERVICE ARE IN TRAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. SEIZURE: IN ADDITION TO THE 9 POINT 9 KILOS OF COCAINE BASE, 13.95 KILOS OF PROCESSED MARIHUANA AND 51 MARIHUANA CIGARETTES WERE SEIZED, AND 1591 OPIUM PLANTS WERE DESTROYED. ARRESTED WERE 30 PERSONS FOR TRAFFICKING, 27 PERSONS FOR USING NARCOTICS AND 2 PERSONS FOR POSSESSION. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WERE AN ECUADOREAN AND A PERUVIAN WHO HAD SMUGGLED 9.5 KILOS OF COCAINE BASE FROM PERU. THOSE ARRESTED ADMITTED TO TWO PRIOR AMUGGLES OF 23 KILOS EACH. A CHECK FOR SUCRE 380,000.00 (ABOUT \$15,000.00 U.S. DOLLARS), PAYMENT FOR ONE OF THE PREVIOUS

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OFFENSES, WAS CONFISCATED. THE EL ORO PROVINCIAL UNIT,

IN COOPERATION WITH THE PERUVIANS, IS ATTEMPTING TO ARREST AND DEVELOP EVIDENCE AGAINST AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERUVIAN. BECAUSE THE COCAINE BASE WAS DESTINED FOR RECEIVERS IN GUAYAQUIL THE INVESTIGATION IN ECUADOR CONTINUES ALSO.

3. THE DESTROYED OPIUM PLANTS WERE FOUND ON A PROPERTY CALLED PILICHURCO ON WHICH A NUMBER OF INDIANS, MEMBERS OF A COOPERATIVE MANAGED BY TWO BROTHERS NAMED HERNANDEZ, HAD PLANTED THE OPIUM AT THE BROTHERS' DIRECTION. THE COOPERATIVE IS LOCATED IN THE PARISH OF CONSTANTINO FERNANDEZ IN THE CANTON OF AMBATO. WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR THE ARREST OF THE HERNANDEZ BROTHERS, WHO FLED, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL AMBATO FESTIVAL IN FEBRUARY AT WHICH TIME THE POLICE HOPE TO ARREST THEM.

4. EQUIPMENT: FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF ALL COMMODITIES TO THE PROVINCIAL UNITS OF THE NARCOTICS SERVICE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. FURNITURE, TYPEWRITERS, VEHICLES, OPERATING FUNDS ARE NOW IN ALL NINE PROVINCIAL UNITS AND THREE HAVE HAND-HELD RADIOS. ADDITIONAL VEHICLES AND OTHER ITEMS WILL REPLACE PATROL BOATS WHICH HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CUSTOMS NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECT, BUT WHICH THE GOE HAS DECIDED TO PROCURE ITSELF.

5. DIRECTOR OF THE NARCOTICS SERVICE COLONEL NUNEZ HAS INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND IS WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE THE SERVICE QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY.
BREWSTER

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